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MEMORIAL
AND
PETITION
FOR LIBERTY



Presented to the President of the United States and to the
Peace Conference in Paris

by the delegates of the

Ukrainian Convention
of the State of Connecticut

on the day of the Third of August, 1919, in the Ukrainian Hall
New Britain, Connecticut



In which the desires, wishes and wails of the Ukrainians are expressed in view of Poland's
taking into slavery five million Ukrainians as a result of a war for democracy.

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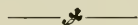
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Whoever reads these pages
be a friend of Ukraine.



The percentage of the Poles of Chicago is in comparison the same as the percentage of Poles in West Ukraine. Now imagine the Poles in Chicago arming themselves, closing the American schools, burning the American churches, banning the English language and taking the administration of the city in their hands, including courts, police, post office, railroads, etc., etc., etc.

What would you say, Americans? Wouldn't you appeal to the world, if you were as defenceless as we are?

This is what is taking place in West Ukraine, and this is why we make this appeal.

MR. PRESIDENT:

We, the undersigned Ukrainian delegates, the majority of whom are American citizens of Ukrainian descent, of the Ukrainian brotherhoods, societies and associations in the State of Connecticut, representing the total population of the former residents of West Ukraine, who now live in Connecticut, of thirty-four thousand souls, assembled in their name as well as in the name of Ukraine in New Britain, Conn., at a convention on the day of the third of August, 1919, and speaking in behalf of high principles of humanity proclaimed repeatedly by the President of the United States, beg the President to give your consideration to this our solemn petition which we dispatch to you in defence of our native land, Ukraine, against the rapacious and imperialistic Polish designs.

The part of Ukraine in question, being the subject of this petition, is Eastern Galicia and Kholm, the two provinces called West Ukraine and comprising an overwhelming majority, nearly 75 per cent. of the Ukrainian population, which in arrogant spite of all principles of justice and humanity has been by a brute force of arms conquered by the imperialist Polish army and forcefully and against the will of the population annexed to Poland.

Those two territories, kept for nearly six hundred years under a heel of a severe Polish oppression, have nevertheless preserved their Ukrainian character up to the present time, and now, when the time seemed near for their liberation, may we not ask the question: Are the same prominent persons going to hurl them in the abyss of slavery and ruin, who, standing at the brim of the abyss, preach the lofty ideas of liberty to them?

The above named territories of East Galicia and Kholm were conquered by the Polish king Kasimir in the wars of 1340—1380, the two largest Ukrainian cities, Lviv (Lemberg), founded by the Ukrainian prince Leo, and Peremishl (the Poles and the Germans called it Przemyśl), founded by another Ukrainian prince Peremyslav, were razed, and ever since that time the Polish mailed fist predominated physically but the Ukrainian soul and culture morally, in those territories.

May we not go back to those distant ages and recollect those horrible times that our ancestors suffered from the Polish oppressors. So let it be permitted to us to tell of the equally cruel Polish persecution of the latest times, nay, of the so-called twentieth century, and to cite a few examples of the Polish rule in our native land, the

rule that would hardly suit the black races of Africa, and which filled our hearts with deep resentment as it caused misery and poverty in our homes which we consequently were obliged to abandon and go abroad, leaving our relatives and properties at the mercy of cruel Polish officials.

To enjoy the blessings of predatory rule the minority of Poles in East Galicia were granted by the Austrian emperor an autonomy broader than that of any other province of Austria. The governor of Galicia was nominated by the Austrian emperor and only a Pole could be nominated for this post. Hence, all public offices of the central government were occupied by the Poles, for they were in turn nominated by the emperor at the recommendation of the governor. Thus in the localities purely Ukrainian there were Polish courts, Polish judges, notaries, police, constables, clerks, railroads, post office and a host of petty officials, all of whom were only the parasites living on taxes and sapping the national vitalities of the Ukrainian people, which, to be relieved of maltreatment and extortion were obliged to leave their country, thus making a room for a Polish colonist. Thus, one fifth of the Ukrainian population of that country with tears in their eyes were forced to leave their country and settle in Canada, United States of America or Brazil and elsewhere.

The schools were centers of demoralization from universities down to the primary schools. All of them had to serve the purpose of polonizing the Ukrainian population. At the university of Lviv, after a long struggle the Ukrainian language was allowed as an idiom of instruction for a few subjects only. A Ukrainian student Koeko was killed by the Polish students during the fight at the university and the murderers were acquitted by the Polish courts. Every admission of a new Ukrainian professor was opposed by the Poles as a gross encroachment upon Polish rights. This went so far that the governor of Galicia himself vetoed the decision of the Senate of the Lviv university to offer the chair of the Ukrainian language to Dr. Ivan Franko, the great Ukrainian writer and philologist widely known at home and abroad. And every time the Poles were forced to accept a Ukrainian professor the fact was glorified as an example of Polish magnanimity. A law was passed by the autonomous Diet of Galicia prohibiting the establishment of Ukrainian colleges for teachers since such colleges would impede the Polish rulers in their scheme of polonization. Four million Galician Ukrainians were not allowed to have one public commercial or industrial school. Polonization was the first object of elementary schools; education the last. The Ukrainian teachers were sent to Western Galicia by the Polish School Council, to deprive the Ukrainians of the patriotic services of such men, and we often wit-

nessed how our children were being mutilated by the Polish teachers for no other offense than speaking their own mother language on their own soil.

The Ukrainian industrial, cultural and agricultural institutions were maintained almost exclusively by individual subscriptions and donations, yet they all prospered and not a single one failed. But the Polish institutions, the competitors of the former, were fed upon the taxes collected from the Ukrainian population. The zenith of absurdity and anomaly was attained when it became a vogue with the Galician Diet to pass the appropriations of the central Ukrainian enlightenment society only after a favorable report has been received from the competitive Polish society. Numerous laws were passed by the Galician Diet to cripple the Ukrainian commerce and industry and we witnessed among many other things that the imaginary cattle diseases were invented by the Polish authorities to prevent the sale of the Ukrainian cattle, in order not to compete with the prices of cattle of the Polish landowners.

The lawlessness of the Polish rulers found a strong supporter in the Austrian government as the latter needed their support in the parliament in passing their shameful laws. In 1907 the universal suffrage was introduced in Austria. The Poles immediately perceived that this would interfere with their intrigues in Eastern Galicia and exerted a strong opposition to this reform and maintained it so long until the Austrian government granted them exceptional privileges of minority votes which helped the Poles in the Ukrainian part of Galicia to elect 30 deputies while the Ukrainians in the same territory in which they constitute 75% of the population, had only 28. Moreover, in Western Galicia where the Poles were in majority, the electoral districts were so small that they represented a maximum of 50,000 electors, while in Eastern where the Ukrainians were in majority each deputy represented 100,000 electors. The elections to the Galician Diet were done under still more farcical conditions. The electoral laws governing the elections to the Galician Diet were Prussian in principle and diabolical in practice if one considers the firing squads of police, gendarmes and soldiers together with bribery or even non-admission to the voting place. To show that the power they exercised had an origin in the numerical strength the Polish authorities falsified the census enumerations by openly registering as Poles half a million Ukrainians of Roman Catholic religion and all the Jews of Galicia who speak a German jargon and who number nearly one million. These and other secret falsifications enable the Polish authorities to obtain the percentage of the Poles of Eastern Galicia as high as 38 while in fact it hardly surpasses the mark of 15.

Such was the government by the Poles, which stifled commerce and industry and pauperized the peasantry that the landlords might have cheaper labor, and which deprived us of our living income and then forced us out of the country.

The designs to polonize the Ukrainian population of West Ukraine and then incorporate them to the future Poland have always been an ostentation boast of the Poles. In the letter published by the Austrian emperor in Nov., 1916, the latter made it quite clear that he was willing to add the Ukrainian Galicia to future Poland, to be sure, as a recompensation for the unceasing assistance in the parliament in subduing the Slav nationalities of Austria. May we ask President Wilson and the Allies not to follow the steps of the defunct autocrat.

Before the downfall of the Austrian Empire its sole means of safety was sought by the Austrian government, which was the transformation of the conglomerate Austrian monarchy into a federation of autonomous nationalities. The plan was received favorably by all non-German nationalities with the sole exception of the Poles who saw a threat against their privileged position in the Monarchy; and this was the first time that the Poles together with the Germans opposed the government's plan.

When the inevitable happened and the Austrian monarchy broke up, the Ukrainians by the mere strength of their overwhelming numerical superiority took the reins of the government and proclaimed as independent the Ukrainian provinces of East Galicia and Kholm, the latter province according to the Russian census containing 60 per cent. of the Ukrainians and only an insignificant fraction of the Poles.*) As the Russian government did not cajole the Poles of Kholm as did the Austrian government in regard to the Poles of Galicia, the Poles had never been able to make such inroads in the former country as they did in the latter. And thus, though merciless and cruel, the Tsars government was less destructive in results than the Polish government, still more merciless, in the Ukrainian part of Galicia.

With the Austrian downfall, the Ukrainian government, thus set up after nearly six hundred years of oppression, immediately acknow-

*) It should be kept in memory that Kholm is a geographical expression embracing both the Ukrainian population in its eastern part and a narrow strip of the Polish population in the western. This latter, which is not claimed by the Ukrainians, if added to the whole of Kholm (as was done by the Russian census) raises the Polish population of the province 20%, but if separated, the Ukrainian part of Kholm will remain with 75% of the Ukrainians, the rest being made up of Jews, Poles and Russians.

(This note was not included in the text.)

ledged the Jews as a separate nationality and granted the full religious, political and educational rights to the Polish minorities. This government was able to cope with the difficult situation for seven months. All branches of its management, educational, industrial and political functioned in a best order, its army exceeded by its patriotism and discipline any army in Europe, and though the Poles in their propaganda called this army a band, an army which was able for seven months to withstand the greatly superior numbers, yet the fact remains that the "band" was so orderly that it did not commit a hundredth part of the atrocities as were committed by the Polish imperialist soldiery against the Jews and Ukrainians.*)

Then having received arms and supplies from the Allies against the imaginary Bolsheviks, the Poles treacherously turned against the Ukrainian People's Republic, for there were no Bolsheviks to be found. And having aroused the local population and caused disorder they appealed to the Paris Peace Conference and asked a permission to annex the whole of West Ukraine under the pretext of suppressing those disorders, but they failed to mention the fact that they themselves were the authors of those disorders when they tried to coerce the population of the Ukrainian country.

Thus a grave tragedy took place on the fields of West Ukraine when the brutal Polish mercenaries invaded the peace loving country in a manner comparable to the Tartar invasions centuries before. Thousands of incidents of pogroms and massacres marked the bloody trail of the Polish army. Thousands of innocent people were killed or injured, fifty Ukrainian churches were burned and five hundred others closed and thousands of Ukrainian intellectuals were either massacred, interned or thrown to prison.

*) As to the alleged pogroms committed against the Jews by the Ukrainians we can state that the Jews do not believe in them as firmly as the Poles do. As a matter of fact, the Poles who tolerate and even incite the pogroms become ardent and whole-hearted defenders of the Jews when it comes to clamor against the Ukrainian pogroms. Nobody hears of Jews protesting or making demonstrations against Ukraine. As a matter of fact, the Jews sympathize with Ukraine and the proof of it is that Senator H. P. Koppleman of the Connecticut Legislature who is himself a Jew spoke at the Convention, at which this Petition was formulated, in behalf of Ukraine with the warmest sympathy. The assertion of an amateur guesser who said that the Ukrainians killed a round number of 120,000 Jews did not find much credence even among the Jews, as he failed to mention the time, locality, or produce witnesses to back his statement. There might be some sporadic outbreaks against the Jews in Ukraine as in any other country but the fact remains that the army of the Holubovich Government of West Ukraine gave a best protection to the Jews as well as to the Poles.

(This note was not included in the text.)

This national tragedy inspired us with awe and terror and we appeal to you as well as to all the civilized world not to let the worthy Ukrainian people perish under the overcharge of oppression. We, assembled at the convention, raise our voice of despair and pain when we see our native land being mutilated in every manner conceivable. We appeal to all those whose noble instincts of justice and equity were not obliterated by the sights of cruelties and tales of bloody battles, to rescue our nation and our families abroad and not allow five million human beings to be bartered on such a wholesale scale as cattle have never been bartered by any conference.

The Polish authorities, seeing that they had gone too far in their conquest and in their restoration of "order", that the wave of liberalism opposed their treatment of West Ukraine, applied an old policy of treachery, and proclaimed an autonomy for West Ukraine. But having passed a law of autonomy they passed another law by which no landowner in Poland could possess more than 290 acres of land if his property is in Poland, but the same law provides that landowners of West Ukraine can hold as many as 1,750 acres. And to show still better the validity of the autonomy they made a regulation in Galicia prohibiting the use of Ukrainian language in all public places.

Such effrontery thrown to the face of Ukrainian nation and to all the civilized world as well, should be stopped. We demand that the political prostitution of the Polish imperialistic clique be put to end. We demand a complete independence of East Galicia and Kholm. We demand that the principles of selfdetermination of nations proclaimed by President Wilson hold valid. We demand that the Poles govern the indisputably Polish territories and no others.

Otherwise there will be bloodshed until the extermination. The great democratic Ukrainian nation numbering nearly forty million souls will never bend to the knees of the Polish nobleman. The President of the United States as well as America which gave liberty to the negroes are appealed to by us who speak in the name of the forty millions of Ukrainians to do us justice and give liberty to our brethern abroad. For, under the pretext that they had granted autonomy to the Ukrainians the Polish clique tries to strangle the living nation to enjoy its mortal convulsions. But this should not come to pass. The nation that could withstand six centuries of most atrocious persecution is worthy of liberty.

We demand a complete independence of West Ukraine. Sic fiat.

FOLLOW THE SIGNATURES OF THE FACULTY OF THE
CONVENTION AND OF 154 DELEGATES.

RESOLUTION NO. 1. ADOPTED BY THE CONVENTION.

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
WOODROW WILSON:

“Whereas the President of the United States in his message to the Senate of the United States, delivered February 3rd, 1917, said that no peace can last, or ought to last, which does not recognize and accept the principle that Governments derive all their just powers from the consent of the governed, and that no right anywhere exists to hand people about from sovereignty to sovereignty as if they were property, and,

“Whereas we the delegates, representing the American citizens of Ukrainian descent of the State of Connecticut, at convention assembled in the Ukrainian Hall at New Britain, Conn., with great sorrow learn that the Paris peace conference is about to hand to Poland the provinces of East Galicia and Kholm predominantly Ukrainian, without consulting the wishes of the population of these provinces as if the people inhabiting these provinces were mere property, and,

“Whereas we are aware of barbarous and inhuman treatment of the civil population of the provinces of East Galicia and Kholm by Polish troops which presently occupy these territories, therefore,

“We solemnly but unqualifiedly protest against any annexation to Poland of East Galicia or Kholm, and demand that these territories be united with the greater Ukraina, and further we demand the immediate withdrawal of Polish troops from East Galicia and Kholm, and,

“Resolve, that we respectfully petition His Excellency Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States, the Secretary of State, and the Congress of the United States, to recognize complete independence of the Ukrainian Republic.”

RESOLUTION No. 2.

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

“Whereas the President of the United States in his message to the Senate of the United States, delivered February 3rd, 1917, said that no peace can last, or ought to last, which does not recognize and accept the principle that Governments derive all their just powers from the consent of the governed, and that no right anywhere exists to hand people about from sovereignty to sovereignty as if they were property, and,

“Whereas the Senate of the United States is the empowered body to ratify all the treaties made between the United States and foreign governments, and,

“Whereas we are aware of barbarous and inhuman treatment of the civil population of the provinces of East Galicia and Kholm by Polish troops which presently occupy these territories, therefore

“We, the delegates of American citizens of Ukrainian descent, and Ukrainian residents of the State of Connecticut, assembled at convention in the Ukrainian Hall in New Britain, Conn., most humbly pray that the Senate of the United States of America refuse the ratification of any treaty providing for the cession of the provinces of East Galicia and Kholm, predominantly Ukrainian, to Poland, and we further protest against barbarous and inhuman treatment of the civil population of East Galicia and Kholm by the Polish troops, which treatment is wholly devoid of all the principles of civilized warfare, and,

“We further respectfully request of the Congress of the United States to recognize complete independence of the Ukrainian Republic.”

RESOLUTION No. 3.

TO THE PARIS PEACE CONFERENCE:

TO THE UKRAINIAN PEACE DELEGATION in Paris, and to
GEN. SEMEN PETLURA,

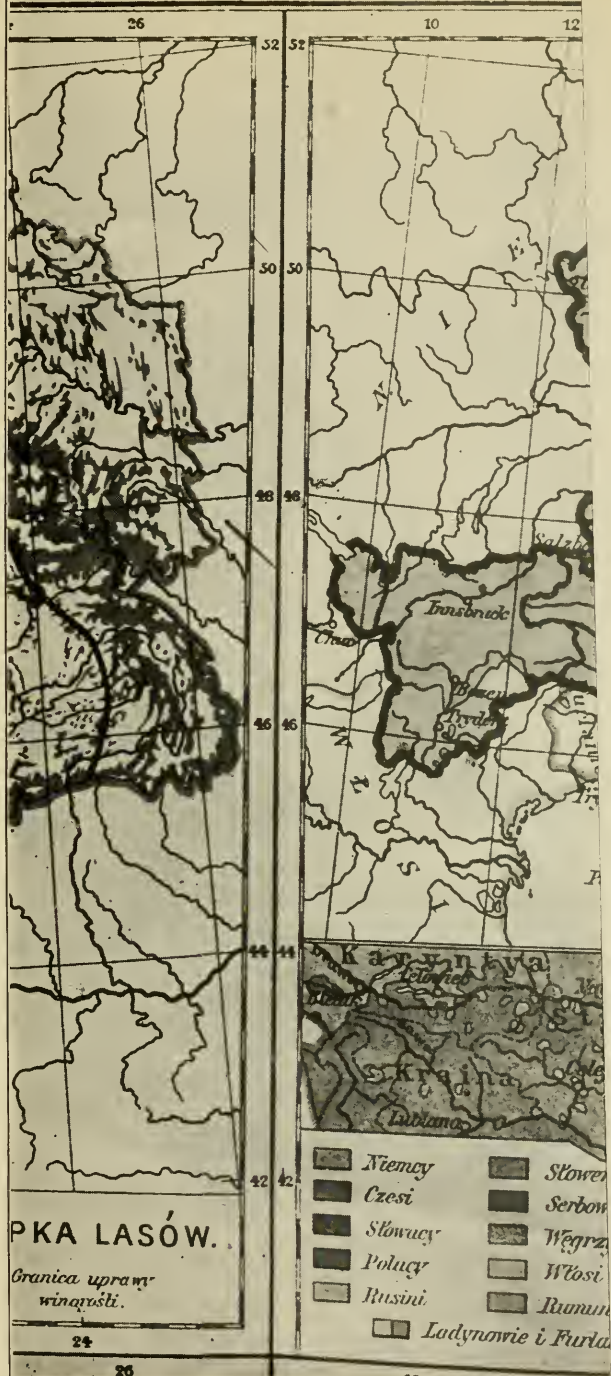
President of Ukrainian Republic:

“The Ukrainians of the State of Connecticut at Convention in New Britain, Conn., requested President Wilson, and the Congress of the United States, to withhold ratification of peace treaty with Poland and to recognize Ukraine’s independence. If policy fails, Ukrainian sword will not.”

RESOLUTION No. 4.

To dispatch the Petition also to the President of the Paris Peace Conference, Exc. M. Clemenceau.

AUSTRO-WĘGRY.



THIS IS THE P USED IN THE POLISH SCHOOLS

The shading of the right upper corner has been done for an enormous stretch of the Ukrainian territory that has been annexed, including the Hungarian part of it and that of Bukovina, the latter by Rumania). The word Rusini means Ukrainians (Ruthenians). It should be noted that the Ukrainian population of Eastern Galicia is not the population of the Slovaks, Hungarians or Rumanians in territories. Kholm is a province north of the Ukrainian Galicia. It is the westernmost mountainous territory of West Ukraine, a country of 500,000 people. The Polish authorities seemed to have forgotten to exert themselves to polonize it, as this territory had been joined



In 1907 the Poles did not claim that Eastern Galicia was a Polish country, as they do now. Even in this war they would never protest if the principles of justice proclaimed by President Wilson were applied at the peace conference. They did not protest when President Wilson offered them the "indisputably Polish territories" in his fourteen points. But the unexpected downpour of troops, arms and supplies into Poland by the Allies proved stronger than justice. Will the policy of blood and iron again prevail?

The Convention was Called under the Auspices of the:

Committee of the Ukrainian State Convention (Rev. J. Pelechovych,
Chairman), 121 Beaver St., New Britain, Conn.
Ukrainian National Committee, 30 E. 7th st., New York, N. Y.
Ukrainian Federation of U. S., 19 E. 7th St., New York, N. Y.

**The following Connecticut branches of the Ukrainian organizations
were represented at the convention:**

Ukrainian National Associations.
Ukrainian Workingmen's Associations.
Associations of "Providence."
Associations of "Free Ukraine."
Branches of Ukrainian Federation of U. S.
Ukrainian Dramatic Societies of America.
Ukrainian Athletic Associations "Sitch."
Ukrainian Cultural Associations "Love."
Shevtchenko Societies.
"Ukranian Progress" Association
Ukrainian Library Society.
"Prosvita" (Culture) Societies.
Ukrainian Coöperative Co's.
St. John Societies.
A. Bontchevsky Society.
St. Peter and Paul Societies.
St. Mary's Societies.
"Ukrainian Sisterhood."
Ukrainian Parishes of Conn.
Ukrainian Churches of Conn.

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